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## 2019 Assembly Candidate Questionnaire - Record Searchlight

The Record Searchlight is asking candidates running in the 2019 special election for the 1st Assembly District seat to answer the following questions to help undecided voters differentiate their options.

Candidate name, age, community of residence (Redding, Susanville, etc.) \*

Joe Turner, 36, Milford

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Please answer the following questions in 1-2 short paragraphs.  
(Answers have a limit of about 150 words or 1,000 characters)

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Candidates' answers will be made available to the public, and contribute to a questionnaire for undecided voters.



1) Given that District 1 has a distinct cultural identity compared to much of California, is it more important for our assembly member to negotiate to get things done or stand up for their principles? \*

Principles are everything and negotiating has its place, but not at the expense of our principles or our Rights. Our ancestors fought two wars against the State of Great Britain for our principles and Liberty. The United States would never exist as we know it if our representatives in the Continental Congress only ever negotiated and compromised for the sake of "reaching across the aisle."

We have to identify mutual goals. We should all work together when we have mutual goals and have the debates and arguments over the best way to accomplish those goals.

Family, friends, and neighbors are leaving California in droves. If we compromise our principles, then they have no reason to stay and fight for our home. California is shamelessly infringing on our Rights: property, water, parental, to keep and bear Arms, among other violations.

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2) Homelessness is prevalent in District 1, especially in communities along Interstate 5. What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to deal with the homeless crisis? \*

Homelessness has no one size fits all solution. For many, if not most, it is because of mental health problems and social stigma. There are plenty of local and private programs to offer people a hand up but there are other programs that enable the problem. We have to calmly identify what works and what does not work before we can do anything about it.

Some homeless people are completely incapable of taking care of themselves and they may need to be given Due Process and become wards of the State, albeit hopefully only temporarily.

Many homeless people rely on animals for emotional support and companionship. My dog saved my life from my PTSD after coming home from Afghanistan and I completely understand that level of bond and importance. We have to expand mental health treatment/facilities to accommodate these emotional support animals.

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3) A Record Searchlight investigation found only 22% of communities at a high risk of wildfire danger have detailed, publicly available evacuation plans for residents. Should District 1 communities be required to provide the public with such plans? \*

Publicly available does not always mean publicly understood. Public servants should always have standard operating procedures for these types of events in place and if they can identify the best routes of evacuation, then they should do so and inform the residents, annually, with a simple pamphlet detailing the routes and emergency service contacts throughout the areas.

Locals know their areas better than Sacramento and these plans, if implemented, must be coordinated locally and when needs are identified in these plans, municipalities, counties, and Sacramento must comply with appropriate funding/support to implement these plans.

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4) Complete the following sentence: We can attract businesses to/increase the economic development of District 1 by ... \*

Getting a fresh start with a new State that encourages Liberty. Money is like water and it always travels the path of least resistance. Liberty works and is the best economic model ever implemented.

California is very anti-business which makes it very difficult to attract economic development. California has lost \$58.63 billion in annual Adjusted Gross Income from 1992-2016 according to IRS data. Our population has risen by 9 million people in the same time. We have the highest level of poverty in the nation.

There are things that can be done locally. Counties and municipalities would have to assume the burden of incentivizing businesses in spite of California. Working with local tribes and sovereign land to minimize the California burden on businesses is an option. The best option is the Constitution which allows new States to be formed. A new free State would be an economic boom.

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5) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to protect residents from mass shootings and other forms of gun violence? \*

I spent 17 years Enlisted in the Army National Guard and have deployed multiple times around the world. The majority of mass shooters are lunatics who always target large groups of people who are unarmed and defenseless.

The 2nd Amendment is not a permission slip, it does not give us the Right to have or do anything. It is a prohibition on government violating our Rights. I am the only candidate who understands this and explains it.

I would submit legislation to revoke all of California's Unconstitutional gun laws so people could be free to defend themselves and their fellow citizens.

I would also submit legislation to make "gun free zones" illegal since they are always at the epicenter of these tragedies. "Gun free zones" are bait for monsters.

The majority of gun related deaths are suicides. That is a mental health issue with no single answer.

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6) How should state and local governments deal with perennial low-level criminals? \*

If the punishment is tantamount to a "slap on the wrist," then people are going to continue exploiting the system at the expense of other people (the victims) and their property.

I believe in Due Process and ensuring the punishment fits the crime. If the crime is habitual, then the punishment needs to be changed to mitigate the behavior. If the infrastructure is limited, then it needs to grow along with the population and needs of the people for public safety.

Another problem is people in California need to be able to properly defend themselves and their property, not just within confines of their homes. Criminals know that citizens and residents are not "allowed" to defend their property outside of the walls of their home.

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7) In your opinion, should abortion be an option for women in District 1, including in cases of rape, incest or where the physical/mental health of the mother is at risk? \*

I am staunchly pro-life but I do not believe victims should be forced to carry to term. I advocate encouragement and support for victims to not end the life of the child. We need to ensure that convicted rapists never have any Rights over that child. It's perpetual abuse against woman who had already been a horribly victimized. We may see more mothers choose to keep these babies or adopt them out if they and the children are protected from these monsters.

The mother is always the Xrst patient and in the event that medical problems put the mother at risk, it is simply and sadly triage. There is no need for any special exemption or social excuse. We exercise triage all the time and if it comes to that, the decision is completely up to the rst patient.

Exercising triage for mental health is a very dangerous precedent.

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8) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support in order to ease the cost of living on District 1 residents? \*

Repeal asinine mandates that inQate the cost of building dwellings. The government does not have a greater vested interest in the structural integrity of my house than I do. I live in it and rely on it to keep my family and I safe and comfortable, not them.

Repeal the damaging minimum wage laws. Rural areas do not have the economic activity to support \$15 an hour for entry level positions and every time there is an increase in the money supply, the costs of goods and services increase. It's basic economics and Sacramento does not care.

In fact, Sacramento wants to drive us out of our homes to consolidate us into cities like chattel with things like the re fee, increase fuel taxes, water taxes, compliance costs, the inevitable mileage tax, ETC which are all designed to increase our costs of living to force us to abandon our homes.

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9) Is there a top issue not addressed in this questionnaire that you'd like to highlight your stance on?

California is broken. Our family, friends, neighbors, and businesses are eeing in droves; poverty is out of control; crime increasing; our children are being indoctrinated; forests are catastrophically burning; taxes never stop increasing; government spending never stops; we have the worst representation within our State government than every other State in the nation; and California is in a state of sedition.

This is a war for the survival of our republic and our nation. I'm the only candidate who has been to war and I am more scared for the safety and well being of my daughter here in California than when I was leading Soldiers in combat in Afghanistan.

Politics as usual has failed as usual. We have to x California before we can x any of these issues. The Constitution is the answer and we have to sue California back into compliance and keep the ght in California.

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Thank you for helping District 1 voters make their choice

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Candidate name, age, community of residence (Redding, Susanville, etc.) \*

Patrick Henry Jones 51 Redding

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Over the years I have been disappointed with the Record Searchlight and the lack of honest reporting. I will not respond to this questionnaire. I do want the good people of District One to know how I feel on the issues. I invite voters to go to my web page

PatrickJonesforAssembly.com or my Facebook page: Patrick Henry Jones for Assembly District 1 or give me a call at (530) 222-3223. I would be honored to earn your vote. Thank You.

2) Homelessness is prevalent in District 1, especially in communities along Interstate 5. What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to deal with the homeless crisis? \*

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Elizabeth Betancourt, 39, Happy Valley

Please answer the following questions in 1-2 short paragraphs.  
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1) Given that District 1 has a distinct cultural identity compared to much of California, is it more important for our assembly member to negotiate to get things done or stand up for their principles? \*

Principles will always guide my decisions. Getting things done doesn't mean you have to abandon your principles. As a Democrat, I'll have a better shot at pushing the Democratic super majority to support our local principles and priorities and get things done for our community. Our region must be represented effectively in a way that will increase investment, increase opportunity, and increase the quality of life for our citizens in a way that does not change our way of life. This has to include increased access to education, healthcare, housing, and public safety in ways that effectively serve our community. We also need meaningful natural resources management that will keep our communities safe and support our economy. I will be a strong advocate to get things done for our district because I won't waver in my values and I'll be at the decision-making table as a resident of this community.

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2) Homelessness is prevalent in District 1, especially in communities along Interstate 5. What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to deal with the homeless crisis? \*

Sacramento has not been able to address homelessness because of two factors: bureaucracy and time. As your Assembly member, I will push the Governor to declare a state of emergency for homelessness so we can expedite the resources and cut through the red tape to help the homeless get off the streets and triaged into the support and services they need immediately. Placing homeless veterans should be our first priority. The homeless that have substance and mental health problems will get the attention they need to keep them and those around them safe. Homelessness is a crisis now. While efforts to fund affordable housing have passed, it may take years to build enough affordable housing to alleviate the current problem. In order to effectively address this problem, we need less laws and more action and cooperation with local advocates and problem-solvers.

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3) A Record Searchlight investigation found only 22% of communities at a high risk of wild fire danger have detailed, publicly available evacuation plans for residents. Should District 1 communities be required to provide the public with such plans? \*

Yes. As has been discussed since the 2017 fire season affecting Santa Rosa, and reinforced by the 2018 season affecting Assembly District 1 directly, being prepared for catastrophic wild fire and other community dangers is an essential component of protecting public safety. Building code standards and development requirements are now requiring increased hardening to fire risk and increased fire truck access; for a community to maintain resilience and safety for its residents, these standards must be built into a community-wide response plan. This must include both evacuation procedures (as practiced by the city of Paradise and likely what saved many lives in that emergency) as well as mitigation and prevention measures to ensure that the disaster doesn't reach its full potential.

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4) Complete the following sentence: We can attract businesses to/increase the economic development of District 1 by ... \*

A series of interlocking policy efforts is required to address what has been a long struggle in rural communities against globalization and regulations with unintended consequences. This strategy will likely take a number of years, but with diligence and discipline can be implemented:

1. Incentivize innovation in the wood products industry;
2. Increase investment in renewable power, including biomass energy production and cogeneration;
3. Provide more accessible educational opportunities at all levels of technical expertise; and
4. Adapt California's regulatory structure to accommodate the unique nature of rural business development.

This strategy will require discipline when it comes to our carbon pricing and use of our greenhouse gas reduction fund. Further, all of this must be built on an accessible, affordable, inclusive, and adaptive educational system, founded on the exceptional community colleges currently serving our population.

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## 5) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to protect residents from mass shootings and other forms of gun violence? \*

There are three main strategies I would promote in policy to address our growing crisis of mass shootings.

1. We need to think about domestic terrorism in the same way that we think about international terrorism, with domestic law enforcement trained to watch social media, track potential offenders, and understand the best management strategies for these cases;
  2. We must increase access to mental health care at all ages, and reduce the stigma associated with maintaining a healthy mind, with an inclusive community as the ultimate goal; and
  3. Reduce access to guns made to kill people – automatic weapons developed for war. We can keep assault weapons out of the hands of dangerous individuals without infringing on legitimate home defense or a sportsman's Constitutional rights and independent lifestyle.
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## 6) How should state and local governments deal with perennial low-level criminals? \*

The courts have tied our hands and the lack of jail modernization has resulted in the early release of many low-level offenders. More work needs to be done to make sure those released are monitored properly and given guidance and training so that they can become productive members of the community instead of re-offending at the first opportunity. This means that we need to invest in better mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job training. Everyone makes mistakes or has family members and friends who have gone down the wrong path. It is impractical and a poor use of public funds to build enough prisons to hold everyone: we need to do all that we can to give those who work for it a good shot at a second chance.

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7) In your opinion, should abortion be an option for women in District 1, including in cases of rape, incest or where the physical/mental health of the mother is at risk? \*

Absolutely: our own body is the place we have the greatest sovereignty. The only people making decisions affecting our bodies should be us, with information from medical professionals. Women requiring access to abortion services come from all walks of life, all ages, all religions, all backgrounds, and all races: about 35% of women of reproductive age today will seek abortion services at some point in their lives. The decision to have an abortion is rarely, if ever, simple; most women base their decision on several factors, with the most common being lack of money or lack of readiness to start or expand their family. Forcing a family on an unprepared or unwilling woman or a couple is a recipe for an unstable family. No birth control is 100% effective: the most proactive policy we can implement to reduce unintended pregnancies is to educate all people – especially our teenagers – about sex.

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8) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support in order to ease the cost of living on District 1 residents? \*

The greatest impact on California's cost of living is our home prices and, as part of that, the taxes, insurance, and associated costs for home ownership (also affecting rental prices). California homes cost, on average, more than twice the national average. This is largely due to inadequate supply. We must build more homes – on the order of 100,000 more each year throughout the state. Our growing communities require direct investment in increasing housing, a responsibility of our local jurisdictions. While affordable housing is also a local responsibility, it has historically been subsidized by the state to ensure adequate supply; I would support continued state investment in affordable housing supply to increase access, and also offset the general need, resulting in decreasing overall cost of living. These programs must be locally driven, however, to t local communities' needs.

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9) Is there a top issue not addressed in this questionnaire that you'd like to highlight your stance on?

Maintaining our homeowners' insurance in the face of increasing catastrophic wild re is a very real issue for many of us. We must take care of our neighbors and protect the fabric of our communities. I have a history of working on this issue, and look forward to using my experience and connections to advocate for our North State community.

Water is one of our most precious resources, and is the lifeblood of our landscapes as well as of our economy. For decades our North State has been left out of water resources negotiations, but we have an opportunity in the re-opening of the Delta tunnels project. To take advantage of this opportunity and protect our resources we need someone in the Legislature who understands water issues, water rights, and the state's Area of Origin protections for rural California: I am that person, and appreciate your support on August 27th!

Thank you for helping District 1 voters make their choice

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Lane Rickard 24; Redding Ca.

Please answer the following questions in 1-2 short paragraphs.  
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1) Given that District 1 has a distinct cultural identity compared to much of California, is it more important for our assembly member to negotiate to get things done or stand up for their principles? \*

In some cases I would say yes. Negotiation, not compromise is the best course of action when you're at a disadvantage. Currently there are 61 Democrat assembly members and 19 Republican. The ability to negotiate is key if one is going to succeed in the best interest of our district. Simply put, our distinct rural cultural district demands varying legislation from our vastly different southern metropolitan counterparts. California is too large to have one size fits all policy. I am of the opinion one should never yield nor falter on the cultural identity that defines our community. It is our moral principles that define us, it is the very definition of doing the right thing. While in Sacramento, it is the principles this very community has taught me that I will continue to uphold and preserve.

2) Homelessness is prevalent in District 1, especially in communities along Interstate 5. What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to deal with the homeless crisis? \*

We would have to start with legislation that focuses on the mental health of those that are homeless. As your assemblyman, I would draft legislation that provides state mental health opportunities focusing on helping those less fortunate move toward recovering and becoming proud productive members of our society.

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3) A Record Searchlight investigation found only 22% of communities at a high risk of wild fire danger have detailed, publicly available evacuation plans for residents. Should District 1 communities be required to provide the public with such plans? \*

Absolutely, as your assemblyman I would work with local resources to identify efficient evacuation plans giving consideration the varying geographical conditions that exist within the different communities. The preservation of life is paramount and we must communicate these new plans to all of those at risk within our district.

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4) Complete the following sentence: We can attract businesses to/increase the economic development of District 1 by ... \*

Removing the multitude of regulations from Sacramento that continue to plague small businesses within our district. District One is both geographically and socioeconomically different from our counterparts in the south. Knowing that, it is essential that we develop business recruitment methods directed at attracting the various types of business most suited for our district.

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5) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to protect residents from mass shootings and other forms of gun violence? \*

I am a Qrm believer in our Second Amendment rights. That being said I am also a Xrm believer In responsible gun ownership. As your assemblyman I feel there is a need for legislation that encompasses accountability while protecting our Second Amendment rights. When a gun owner is negligent in proper storage management, which leads to the illegal use of a Erearm causing harm, they must be held accountable for the death and destruction inVicted to on our Republic.

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6) How should state and local governments deal with perennial low-level criminals? \*

There is a denite need to develop programs focused on the rehabilitation of perennial low level criminals. I would seek opportunities to create programs that will provide them with new skills to assist in obtaining gainful employment and reduce the need to violate our laws. That being said there are those individuals given all opportunity will still choose a path of crime. In these instances stiffer penalties and incarceration might be the only answer requiring an increase in jail space funding.

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7) In your opinion, should abortion be an option for women in District 1, including in cases of rape, incest or where the physical/mental health of the mother is at risk? \*

Abortion should not be a tool to prevent pregnancy. In the case of rape incest or where physical and or mental health of the mother is at risk I would support the mothers decision.

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8) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support in order to ease the cost of living on District 1 residents? \*

I would move to draft legislation directed at rural community housing development. We need to remove the regulations that don't fit our geographical position within California. There are regulations that are appropriate for the metropolitan areas of the state however these same regulations have no or minimal application in rural California. The rural counties of California continue to struggle financially due to legislation that does not give consideration to the difference in population size.

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9) Is there a top issue not addressed in this questionnaire that you'd like to highlight your stance on?

Northern California is different than the metropolitan areas of our state. During my time working as the District One elected representative I traveled from Yreka to Sacramento listening to the constituents. I listen to their problems and the solutions they proposed. Water conservation and reservoir management is at the top of everyone's list. As Southern California continues to grow in population there demand for our water continues to grow. If the farmers of Northern California are going to be able to continue to provide for our union we need to direct more effort in the area of water conservation.

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Megan Dahle, 43, Bieber, Ca

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1) Given that District 1 has a distinct cultural identity compared to much of California, is it more important for our assembly member to negotiate to get things done or stand up for their principles? \*

The two are not mutually exclusive. It is possible to both stand up for the principles of our district and be extremely effective in bringing resources to the North State. By educating others on our way of life and showing why a one size fits all approach to policies doesn't work for the 1st Assembly District.

2) Homelessness is prevalent in District 1, especially in communities along Interstate 5. What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to deal with the homeless crisis? \*

California has the second highest homelessness rate in the Country. The state needs to better coordinate with local governments agencies and work with non proSts to identify the unique challenges in our different communities.

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3) A Record Searchlight investigation found only 22% of communities at a high risk of wildOre danger have detailed, publicly available evacuation plans for residents. Should District 1 communities be required to provide the public with such plans? \*

The state needs to work with and help our local agencies to develop those plans to ensure our communities and neighborhoods are safe. Fire safe councils are great resources to provide information to residents.

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4) Complete the following sentence: We can attract businesses to/increase the economic development of District 1 by ... \*

reducing regulations on existing businesses, streamlining our regulatory environment and reviving our timber industry.

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5) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support to protect residents from mass shootings and other forms of gun violence? \*

These horric acts of violence are heartbreaking. Infringing the rights of law abiding citizens is not the solution. The California Department of Justice APPS program declared there are 20,000 felons in California still in possession of Xrearms. We should implement laws currently on our books before passing any new ones.

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6) How should state and local governments deal with perennial low-level criminals? \*

Our local law enforcement agencies need additional resources to keep our communities safe and programs to rehabilitate, reduce recidivism and create pathways for them to become successful members of our communities.

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7) In your opinion, should abortion be an option for women in District 1, including in cases of rape, incest or where the physical/mental health of the mother is at risk? \*

I am pro life.

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8) What legislation, if any, would you bring forward or support in order to ease the cost of living on District 1 residents? \*

California has become unaffordable. We have the highest energy costs in the Country. Expecting the state to reach 100% renewable energy generation is unrealistic, and the rising cost of energy being passed on to ratepayers is unfair. We should look at ways to reduce our energy costs and decrease the burdens on ratepayers.

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9) Is there a top issue not addressed in this questionnaire that you'd like to highlight your stance on?

We need more policies out of Sacramento that are business friendly. That's why I will continue to build relationships and educate other legislators on our way of life. I will do what it takes to make a stronger and safer North State.

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